



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Defensive lineman Chase Van Wyck recovers a fumble near the goal line in Eastern Oregon University's matchup against the College of Idaho at Community Stadium in La Grande on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. Van Wyck was named Frontier Conference co-defensive player of the year alongside teammate Sage DeLong.

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during the season. The Vale native also recorded six sacks in a matchup against Carroll on Oct. 30, which set a school record.

"It was evident during the course of the games that they could take over games and just do their jobs at a high level," Camp said.

DeLong wrapped up his career ranked as the program's second all-time player in sacks (26) and tackles for loss (51.5). This season marked the second time that DeLong has been named an All-American after earning honorable mention following the 2019-20 season.

"We got stronger on defense as the season went on," Camp said. "A lot of that had to do with the leadership of those two guys."

Van Wyck, a Napavine,

program's all-time list in tackles for loss (48.5) and sacks (24.5).

"Each one of them brings something different to the table," Camp said.

"For offensive coaches to

out of high school, Camp emphasized the impact of DeLong and Van Wyck beyond just their performances on the gridiron.

"It's something to be able to watch them grow on the field and as men," he said. "For (Van Wyck) to be able to graduate and for Sage to almost be done with his master's, it's just a really good story for both of them."

Van Wyck and DeLong concluded their careers as two of the best defensive linemen to play for Eastern Oregon. Upon leaving the program, the two players set the standard for what Camp hopes Eastern can achieve in years to come.

"Those two guys are true pillars," Camp said. "I'm super proud of them."

Those two guys are true pillars, I'm super proud of them.

— Tim Camp, EOU head football coach

Washington, native, earned his second career nomination to an All-American team. Van Wyck earned honorable mention after finishing the season with seven sacks, 16.5 tackles for loss and 54 total tackles.

Van Wyck concluded his Eastern career third on the

have to game plan around not just one, but two, is kind of unthinkable at times."

Both players earned a share of Frontier Conference Defensive Player of the Year after stellar showings in 2021.

Having recruited both

LOCAL STANDINGS

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Weston-McEwen	0-0	3-3
Stanfield	0-0	3-3
Enterprise	0-0	1-4
Grant Union	0-0	1-4
Pilot Rock	0-0	1-5

CASCADE COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
LC State	3-0	10-1
Oregon Tech	3-0	6-5
College of Idaho	2-1	8-3
Northwest	2-1	5-3
Warner Pacific	2-1	6-4
Multnomah	2-1	6-5
Corban	1-2	6-5
Bushnell	1-2	3-5
Southern Oregon	1-2	4-7
Evergreen	1-2	1-6
Eastern Oregon	0-3	5-5
Walla Walla	0-3	1-8

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Powder Valley	0-0	5-0
Nixyaawii	0-0	3-2
Cove	0-0	1-3
Pine Eagle	0-0	1-3
Joseph	0-0	1-4
Griswold	0-0	0-4
Elgin	0-0	0-4
Imbler	0-0	0-5
Wallowa	0-0	0-5

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CASCADE COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
LC State	3-0	9-0
Southern Oregon	3-0	10-1
Warner Pacific	3-0	4-3
Northwest	2-1	8-2
Bushnell	2-1	4-4
Eastern Oregon	2-1	5-6
College of Idaho	1-2	7-4
Evergreen	1-2	2-4
Multnomah	1-2	1-8
Oregon Tech	0-3	7-3
Walla Walla	0-3	1-9
Corban	0-3	1-9

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Baker	0-0	4-1
McLoughlin	0-0	3-0
La Grande	0-0	2-3
Ontario	0-0	0-4

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Union	0-0	6-0
Stanfield	0-0	4-2
Enterprise	0-0	3-3
Pilot Rock	0-0	3-3
Weston-McEwen	0-0	3-3
Grant Union	0-0	2-3
Heppler	0-0	2-3

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
La Grande	0-0	4-0
Baker	0-0	4-2
McLoughlin	0-0	1-2
Ontario	0-0	0-3

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Nixyaawii	0-0	5-0
Wallowa	0-0	2-3
Griswold	0-0	1-3
Pine Eagle	0-0	1-3
Cove	0-0	1-3
Joseph	0-0	1-4
Elgin	0-0	1-4
Powder Valley	0-0	0-5
Imbler	0-0	0-5

OSU

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right here who can do it," Smith said.

Smith said he spoke to former Washington coach Jimmy Lake, though he was not interviewed for the job. Lake and Smith were coordinators at UW from 2014-17.

When he made Bray the interim coordinator, Smith said he had an inkling it might lead to something more. In watching Bray closely during his three-game interim stint, Smith said the player's enthusiasm stood out. Also important was how Bray simplified certain aspects of the defense to players.

"A really good leader makes sophisticated stuff

simple," Smith said.

The combination of experience, connection with players and leadership won over Smith.

"We're not talking about some young guy who hasn't done much," Smith said. "He's been at the Power 5 level for a long time. Been around some really good defensive coordinators. He's learned a lot, and he's ready to put his stamp on it."

There's work to be done with the defensive staff. Smith said it's unclear as to whether Bray will continue as inside linebackers coach. With Tibesar gone, Smith also has an outside linebackers position to fill.

"There's multiple ways we can go with the next defensive assistant," Smith said.

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